

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

16072-6

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/403174

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/EP99/01091

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  
February 19, 1999

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  
February 20, 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING AND AUTHENTICATING ACCESSORIES,  
AUXILIARY AND/OR OPERATING SUBSTANCES FOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US  
PETER RUDLOFF

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.  
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:  
2 sheets drawings  
International Search Report w/English translation

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PCT/EP99/01091

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)  
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO  
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$970.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to  
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$840.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but  
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$760.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)  
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$670.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.432)  
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$96.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$ 840

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30  
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$

| CLAIMS                                      | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE       |    |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|----|
| Total claims                                | 12 - 20 =    |              | X \$18.00  | \$ |
| Independent claims                          | 1 - 3 =      |              | X \$78.00  | \$ |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) |              |              | + \$260.00 | \$ |

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 840

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement  
must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

\$

SUBTOTAL =

\$

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30  
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 840

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be  
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +

\$

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 840

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Amount to be: | \$ |
| refunded      |    |
| charged       | \$ |

- a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 20-1430 in the amount of \$ 840 to cover the above fees.  
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any  
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1430. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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SIGNATURE

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REGISTRATION NUMBER

09/403174

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 16072-000600US

Client Reference No.: S 1098 - W/cd

400 500d PCT/PTO 18 OCT 1999  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. National Phase of  
PCT/EP99/01091 of:

PETER RUDLOFF

Application No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
IDENTIFYING AND  
AUTHENTICATING ACCESSORIES,  
AUXILIARY AND/OR OPERATING  
SUBSTANCES FOR ITEMS OF  
EQUIPMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111  
October 18, 1999

Box PCT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 1, please delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "3." and substitute therefor --4.--;

line 1, delete "one of the preceding claims" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 1, delete "one of the preceding claims" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "one of the preceding claims" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "one of the preceding claims" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1, delete "one of the preceding claims" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "one of the preceding claims" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 3, delete "one of Claims 1 to 10" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

Claim 12, line 3, delete "one of Claims 1 to 10" and substitute therefor

--Claim 1--.

REMARKS

Amendment is made to correct the claim numbers, (claim #3. listed twice) and to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims, thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. George Jeka  
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Ottobrunn 19 February 1999

Official file reference:

Attorney's file: S 1055

System and method for identifying and authenticating accessories, auxiliary and/or operating substances for items of equipment

5 The invention relates to a system for identifying and authenticating accessories, auxiliary and/or operating substances for items of equipment. It further relates to a method for detecting and decoding information  
10 stored on an optically readable data carrier portion.

It is often the case that accessory parts or auxiliary substances or operating substances for items of equipment are produced and distributed not only by the  
15 manufacturer of the item of equipment but also by third-party suppliers. Such products from third-party suppliers often do not meet the high quality and safety requirements of the manufacturer of the item of equipment but can be used in conjunction with the item  
20 of equipment without major technical problems. For the manufacturer of an item of equipment, it is generally difficult to ensure the reliability and safety of the equipment if such accessory products or auxiliary or operating substances from third-party suppliers are  
25 used, since the decision on the use of such third-party supplier products generally lies with the user of the equipment.

25

30

The provision of the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer on the accessories or the auxiliary or operating substances or their storage containers and of the reading and evaluating device for this information on the item of equipment makes it possible for the equipment to inspect, preferably likewise visually, whether the information provided on the data carrier portion coincides with a prescribed item of information stored in the equipment, so that operation of an item of equipment is made possible only if they coincide. This authentication function of the system according to the invention is supplemented by the detectability of information by the human eye and by its property of being distinctive to a human viewer, generally directly, that is to say without prolonged viewing. Consequently, the user can initially check with his own

eyes whether the accessories or auxiliary or operating substances are products authorized by the manufacturer.

It is advantageous in particular if the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer is formed by a trademark. If use of the item of equipment with the accessories or the auxiliary or operating substances is in this case only authorized if the trademark detectable by the human eye, generally a registered and protected mark of the manufacturer, is provided on the data carrier portion, the manufacturer can prevent the distribution of unauthorized accessories or unauthorized auxiliary or operating substances for the item of equipment directly on the basis of a trademark infringement, since an unauthorized third-party manufacturer must use the otherwise protected trademark in an unallowed way to ensure operability. Instead of a trademark, an otherwise protected graphic or typographic element may also be provided.

If the data carrier portion has a first region, in which only machine-readable information is stored, and a second region, in which the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer is stored, it is possible to provide on the data carrier portion, in addition to the information that can be detected by the human eye, data which can likewise be read and evaluated by the reading and evaluating device of the item of equipment, this data having for example technical data of the product, in other words of the corresponding accessories or of the corresponding auxiliary or operating substance. In this case, the first region may contain a variable, product-dependent item of information, while the second region comprises a static manufacturer-dependent item of information, which is the same for all products.

It is preferable if at least one reference marking for the orientation of the reading device is provided on the data carrier portion. As a result, reliable detection of the data on the data carrier portion is ensured, even if the data carrier portion is moved past the reading device in different positions.

It is also preferable if the information stored on the first region of the data carrier portion is formed by a machine-readable code and the information stored on the second region of the data carrier portion is formed by a trademark.

In a further preferred embodiment, the first region of the data carrier portion has a multiplicity of lines of a binary pixel code, the binary pixel code containing a plurality of lines of the only machine-readable information, and the second region of the data carrier portion has a plurality of lines of a pixel code which together form the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer.

The line-by-line binary pixel code in the first region provides a coding capability which allows a very high data density per unit area of the data carrier portion.

The representation of the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer as a line-by-line pixel code facilitates the evaluation of the information of the data carrier portion, which in this way can be performed with one and the same reading and evaluating device for the first region and the second region.

It is preferred if a machine-readable limit marking, which preferably comprises at least one blank line, is provided between the first region of the data carrier portion and the second region of the data carrier portion. This provides a clear delimitation of the



first region and second region both for the human eye and for the reading device.

It is also preferred if the reference marking has a frame reaching around at least one of the two regions of the data carrier portion.

To facilitate reading out, the binary pixel code of a line has in each case a row of adjacently lying bit markings of the binary representation of an item of information.

It is preferred if, to increase reading-out reliability, binary bit markings for a check digit for the binary representation of the information are additionally provided in each line.

A method for detecting and decoding information provided on an optically readable data carrier portion of a system according to one of Claims 1 to 10, the information being detectable by the human eye and distinctive to a human viewer, comprises the steps: registering the optical information present on the data carrier portion, reading out the optical information present on the data carrier portion, comparing the read-out information with a stored information sample and generating an authenticating signal if the read-out information of the second region has been detected as coinciding with the stored information sample.

An alternative method for detecting and decoding information provided on an optically readable data carrier portion of a system according to one of Claims 1 to 10, at least part of the information being detectable by the human eye and distinctive to a human viewer, comprises the steps: registering the optical information present on the data carrier portion, preferably identifying the reference marking, identifying the first and second regions of the data

carrier portion, reading out and decoding the binary information contained in the first region, reading out the information contained in the second region, comparing the read-out information of the second region with a stored information sample and generating an authenticating signal if the read-out information of the second region has been detected as coinciding with the stored information sample.

The invention is explained in more detail below on the basis of an example with reference to the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows the schematic structure of a system according to the invention,

Figure 2 shows a data carrier portion of a system according to the invention and

Figure 3 shows a block diagram of the system according to the invention.

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of an item of equipment 10, which has a receptacle 12 for a storage container 16 containing an auxiliary substance 14. The item of equipment is, for example, an analyzer for the automatic analysis of chemical or biological specimens, the auxiliary substance being formed by a reagent which is used for the analysis of a specific specimen (not shown) in the item of equipment 10.

The storage container 16 is provided in its upper region with a data carrier portion 18, which is explained in further detail below with reference to Figure 2. Provided on the item of equipment 10 is a reading and evaluating device 20, which has for example a video camera or a fixed video camera, the lens 22 of which is directed at the data carrier portion 18.

In Figure 2, the data carrier portion 18 is reproduced in a greatly enlarged form. The data carrier portion 18 has a first region 24, in which a machine-readable item of information is stored. Furthermore, the data carrier portion 18 has a second region 26, in which an item of information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer is stored. In the example of Figure 2, this is the sequence of letters "SCIL".

Provided as a limit marking 28 between the first region and the second region is a blank line, in which no binary information is stored. The first region 24 and the second region 26 as well as the limit marking 28 are together surrounded by a frame forming a reference marking 30.

The first region 24 comprises a multiplicity of lines, 32, 32', 32'' of a binary pixel code, which has a multiplicity of columns 34, 34', 34'' per line, each combination of line and column representing a pixel location which, either by a white pixel or a black pixel, contains an item of binary optical information. Provided at the right-hand end of the lines are three columns 36, 36', 36'', which, in each case in combination with a line, contain a binary code of a check digit for the respective line.

In the present example, a white bit marking 38 denotes the binary value "0", whereas a black bit marking 40 denotes the binary value "1".

In the second region 26, the letters "SCIL" are formed by corresponding line-by-line binary markings, the totality of the lines in the second region 26 forming a combination of letters "SCIL" that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer. Instead of letters, a graphic representation, for

If during operation the data carrier portion 18 is registered by the camera of the reading and evaluating device 20, firstly the region of the data carrier portion bearing the information is identified on the basis of the reference marking. Then, the image produced by the camera is analyzed line by line, in order to establish whether a light or dark or coloured bit marking is present at a corresponding pixel location (combination of line and column), it being possible for different coloured bit markings to be provided to increase the information density. The line-by-line coding in the first region 24 is decoded according to a prescribed coding algorithm and the second region 26 is identified on the basis of the limit marking 28. The depiction of the second region 26 is compared with a depiction stored in a memory of the item of equipment 10, whereupon, if the comparison shows identity of the stored depiction with the registered depiction of the data carrier 18, an authenticating signal is generated in the item of equipment 10, which in the present example allows the auxiliary substance 14 for the carrying out of an analysis and consequently makes the analysis possible. If, on account of a lack of coincidence, no authenticating signal is generated, an error message is issued on the item of equipment 10 and its operation is inhibited for the auxiliary substance 14.

Represented in Figure 3 is a block diagram which shows the basic structure of the system according to the invention for identification and authentication. The optical signal picked up by the lens 22 of the camera 21 from the data carrier portion 18 is converted in the camera 21 into an electronic image signal in a conventional way. The electronic image signal is read out, for example line by line, in a reading-out device

41 and decoded in a downstream decoding device 42, using a prescribed decoding algorithm. The information thus obtained is passed on to a comparison device 43, in which this information read out from the data carrier portion 18 is compared with an item of information stored in a memory device 44.

If the read information coincides with the stored information, an enabling signal is sent from the comparison device 43 to an enabling controller 46, which thereupon enables a functional component 48 of the item of equipment 10, so that the item of equipment 10 is ready to operate.

If the comparison of the read information and the stored information in the comparison device 43 does not lead to coincidence of the two items of information, a blocking signal is sent from the comparison device 43 to the enabling controller 46, which thereupon disables the functional component 48 of the item of equipment, so that the equipment is not ready to operate, and an optical and/or acoustic signal is triggered in order to indicate to the operator of the item of equipment 10 the lack of operational readiness of the equipment.

The functional component 48 may be, for example, a power supply or an open-loop and/or closed-loop control device for the item of equipment 10 or for part of the item of equipment 10.

The invention is not restricted to the above exemplary embodiment, which merely serves for a general explanation of the essential idea of the invention. Rather, the device according to the invention can, within the extent of protection, also assume configurations other than those described above. The device may in this case have in particular features which represent a combination of the respective individual features of the claims.

For example, a mirror-reflex camera or a video camera can also be equipped with a reading and evaluating device according to the invention and the  
5 interchangeable lenses for this camera could be provided with a data carrier portion according to the invention, in order to permit only the use of original lenses of the camera manufacturer on this camera.

- 10 Reference numerals in the claims, the description and the drawings serve merely for better understanding of the invention and are not intended to restrict the extent of protection.

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Claims

1. System for identifying and authenticating accessories, auxiliary substances and/or operating substances for items of equipment,
- the accessories or the auxiliary or operating substances or their storage containers (16) being provided with a data carrier portion (18) on which information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer is stored,
  - the item of equipment (10) being provided with a reading and evaluating device (20) for this information and
  - the reading and evaluating device (20) having a comparison device (43) for comparing the read information with a stored item of information as well as an enabling controller (46) for at least one functional component (48) of the item of equipment (10) in such a way that if the read information coincides with the stored information an authenticating signal or enabling signal is supplied by the enabling controller (46) to the functional component (48), which thereupon permits operation of the item of equipment (10) and if the read information does not coincide with the stored information disables operation of the item of equipment.
2. System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer is formed by a trademark.
3. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized

- in that the data carrier portion (18) has a first region (24), in which only machine-readable information is stored, and
  - in that the data carrier portion (18) has a second region (26), in which the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer is stored.
3. System according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one reference marking (30) for the orientation of the reading device (20) is provided on the data carrier portion (18).
5. System according to one of the preceding claims, characterized
- in that the information stored on the first region (24) of the data carrier portion (18) is formed by a machine-readable code and
  - in that the information stored on the second region (26) of the data carrier portion (18) is formed by a trademark.
6. System according to one of the preceding claims, characterized
- in that the first region (24) of the data carrier portion (18) has a multiplicity of lines (32, 32', 32'') of a binary pixel code, the binary pixel code containing the only machine-readable information, and
  - in that the second region (26) of the data carrier portion (18) has a plurality of lines of a pixel code which together form the information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer.
7. System according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a machine-readable limit marking (28), which preferably comprises at least one blank line, is provided between the first region (24) of the

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data carrier portion (18) and the second region (26) of the data carrier portion (18).

8. System according to one of the preceding claims,  
5 characterized in that the reference marking (30) has a  
frame reaching around at least one of the two regions  
(24, 26) of the data carrier portion (18).

9. System according to one of the preceding claims,  
10 characterized in that the binary pixel code of a line  
(32, 32', 32'') has in each case a row of adjacently  
lying bit markings (34, 34', 34'') of the binary  
representation of an item of information.

15 10. System according to Claim 9, characterized in that  
binary bit markings (36, 36', 36'') for a check digit  
for the binary representation of the information are  
additionally provided in each line (32, 32', 32'').

20 11. Method for detecting and decoding information  
provided on an optically readable data carrier portion  
(18) of a system according to one of Claims 1 to 10,  
the information being detectable by the human eye and  
distinctive to a human viewer, comprising the steps:

```

25  - registering the optical information present on the
    data carrier portion;
    - reading out the optical information present on the
    data carrier portion;
    - comparing the read-out information with a stored
30  information sample and
    - generating an authenticating signal if the read-out
    information of the second region (26) has been
    detected as coinciding with the stored information
    sample.

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35 12. Method for detecting and decoding information provided on an optically readable data carrier portion (18) of a system according to one of Claims 1 to 10, at least part of the information being detectable by the

human eye and distinctive to a human viewer, comprising the steps:

- ```

- registering the optical information present on the
  data carrier portion (18);
5  - identifying the first and second regions (24, 26) of
  the data carrier portion (18);
- reading out and decoding the binary information
  contained in the first region (24);
- reading out the information contained in the second
10  region (26);
- comparing the read-out information of the second
  region (26) with a stored information sample and
- generating an authenticating signal if the read-out
  information of the second region (26) has been
15  detected as coinciding with the stored information
  sample.

```

5 - identifying the first and second regions (24, 26) of the data carrier portion (18);

- reading out and decoding the binary information contained in the first region (24);

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- reading out the information contained in the second
10  region (26);

```

- comparing the read-out information of the second region (26) with a stored information sample and

15     - generating an authenticating signal if the read-out  
information of the second region (26) has been  
detected as coinciding with the stored information  
sample.

International Patent application (PCT)  
Applicant: scil animal care company GmbH, VIERNHEIM  
Attorney's file: S 1055  
19 February 1999

Abstract

In the case of a system for identifying and authenticating accessories, auxiliary substances and/or operating substances for items of equipment, the accessories or the auxiliary or operating substances or their storage containers are provided with a data carrier portion on which information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer is stored. The item of equipment is in this case provided with a reading and evaluating device for this information. The reading and evaluating device has a comparison device for comparing the read information with a stored item of information as well as an enabling controller for at least one functional component of the item of equipment. If the read information coincides with the stored information an authenticating signal or enabling signal is supplied by the enabling controller to the functional component, which thereupon permits operation of the item of equipment and if the read information does not coincide with the stored information disables operation of the item of equipment and emits a warning signal.

Fig. 1

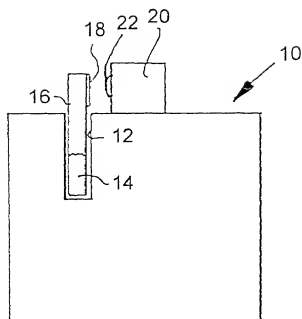


Fig. 2

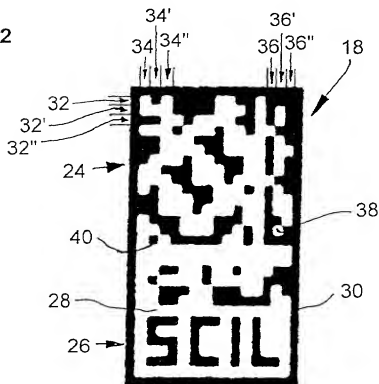
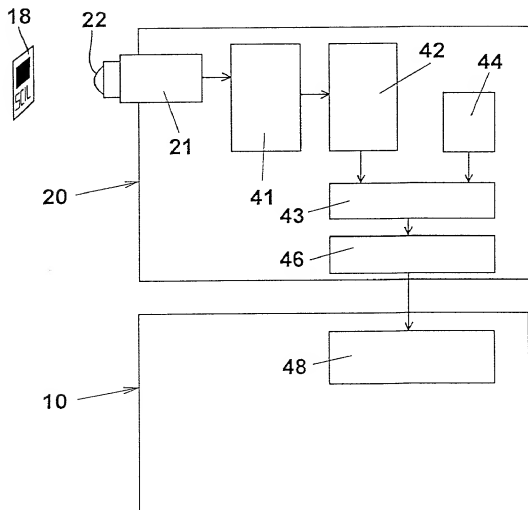


Fig. 3



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☒

PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

Approved for use through 9/20/00. OMB 0551-0052  
Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

# DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)

☐ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing  
OR  
☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number 016072-0006000US

First Named Inventor Peter Rudloff

## COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number /

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING AND AUTHENTICATING  
ACCESSORIES, AUXILIARY AND/OR OPERATING SUBSTANCES FOR ITEMS  
OF EQUIPMENT**

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto  
OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) **February 19, 1999** as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number **PCT/EP99/01091** and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Number(s) | Country | Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Priority Not Claimed                                                             | Certified Copy Attached?                                                         |                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                     |         |                                  |                                                                                  | YES                                                                              | NO                                                                               |
| 19807177.9                          | Germany | 2/20/98                          | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                         |
| 19822751.5                          | Germany | 5/20/98                          | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s) Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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[Page 1 of 2]

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|                                              |                                 |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number | Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Parent Patent Number (if applicable) |
|                                              |                                 |                                      |

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As a Named Inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: ☐ Customer Number ☐ OR ☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

☐ Customer Number ☐ OR ☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

| Name               | Registration Number | Name           | Registration Number |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
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| James F. Hann      | 29,719              |                |                     |
| Charles E. Krueger | 30,077              |                |                     |
| Kevin T. LeMond    | 35,933              |                |                     |

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

|                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Given Name (first and middle if any) | Family Name or Surname |
| Peter                                | Rudloff                |

|                      |             |         |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|
| Inventor's Signature | Date        |         |
| Residence: City      | State       | Country |
| Post Office Address  | Citizenship |         |
| Post Office Address  |             |         |
| City                 | State       | Country |

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto